## Montauk Wastewater

Feasibility Analysis & Land Swap

Update

MCAC 4/4/22

#### Purpose

- To receive community support for a land swap with Suffolk County Parks for siting of a potential wastewater treatment facility to service Montauk priority areas
  - The land swap is needed to complete the feasibility analysis and map & plan

#### Problem and Solution

- Existing cesspools and septic systems do not treat wastewater for nutrients or bacteria
- Town and County incentivizing residential and commercial upgrades to innovative/alternative on-site septic systems to improve water quality
- Wastewater flow and property size constraints in densely populated areas of Montauk make on-site treatment options limited
- Centralized wastewater treatment proposed solution for; downtown, dock area, LIRR/industrial road, and ditch plains

#### Benefits of Sewage Treatment

#### Environmental – Water Quality:

- Surface waters surrounding Montauk, including Fort Pond, Fort Pond Bay, and Lake Montauk are identified as partially impaired waterbodies by NYSDEC
- Reduce Impacts from pathogens, excessive nutrient loading, and algal blooms from on-site wastewater treatment systems to ground and surface waters
- All directly correlated to insufficient, failing sanitary infrastructure within densely developed tributary areas to these waterbodies

#### Public Health and Safety:

- Centralized wastewater treatment is held to a higher standard for effluent, is more efficient, and can remove more contaminants than on-site systems
- Protection of groundwater aquifer and drinking water sources

#### • Economic:

- Business development and revitalization all hinge on functioning sanitary systems
- Areas with failing on-site systems lose value as they cant be used to the fullest extent
- Reduces pump-out needs/costs for undersized or failing commercial septic systems
- Regulatory compliance with USEPA, NYSDEC, and Suffolk County DHS

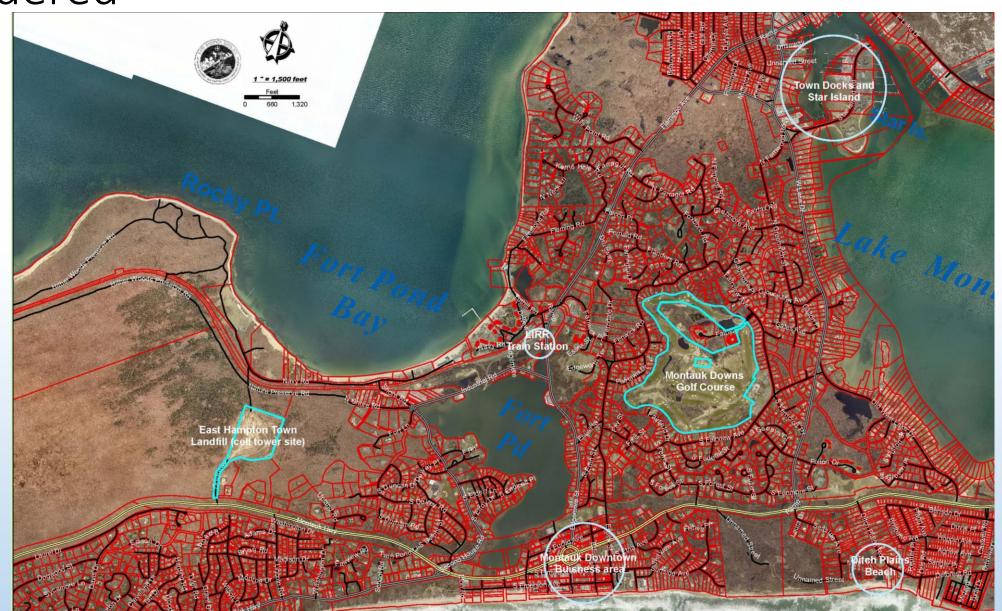
#### Background

- Prior Sewer Studies: The Town of East Hampton has commissioned studies in the past to evaluate the economic growth, environmental protection, and potential sewering of the Montauk area. These include;
  - Wastewater Needs Analysis Report (2014)
  - Lake Montauk Watershed Protection Plan (2014)
  - Comprehensive Town-wide Wastewater Management Plan (2015)
  - Water Quality Improvement Plan (2016)
  - Downtown Montauk Wastewater Management Strategic Plan (2017)
  - Other Regional Studies including Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan (LINAP) and Suffolk County Water Resources Plan
- All studies outline the need for better wastewater treatment throughout the Town with a focus on Montauk for a centralized system
  - Many of the existing onsite systems within commercial areas are not constructed in accordance with current standards and do not function properly
  - To move forward with investigating the feasibility and implementation of a municipal wastewater treatment facility for the Montauk Area, the next step is to prepare a Map & Plan for a wastewater management district

#### Engineer Selection for District Map & Plan

- Following completed studies, Town issued RFP 2/13/2020 postponed to 9/24/2020 (Covid) to hire an engineering firm to prepare a map and plan for a wastewater management district for Downtown Montauk
  - Downtown Montauk is Phase 1 of a multi-phase project with future expansion to other areas
- Scope of Services;
  - Confirm the limits of the wastewater treatment system and establish district boundary
  - Confirm and determine design flows
  - Determine type/layout of treatment system
  - Identification of potential grant funding sources
- H2M Architects & Engineers selected via resolution on 11/20/2020
  - Highest evaluation score, most extensive and impressive experience, skilled team of engineers and planners, best candidate to assist the Town

# Potential District Service Areas and Treatment Sites Considered



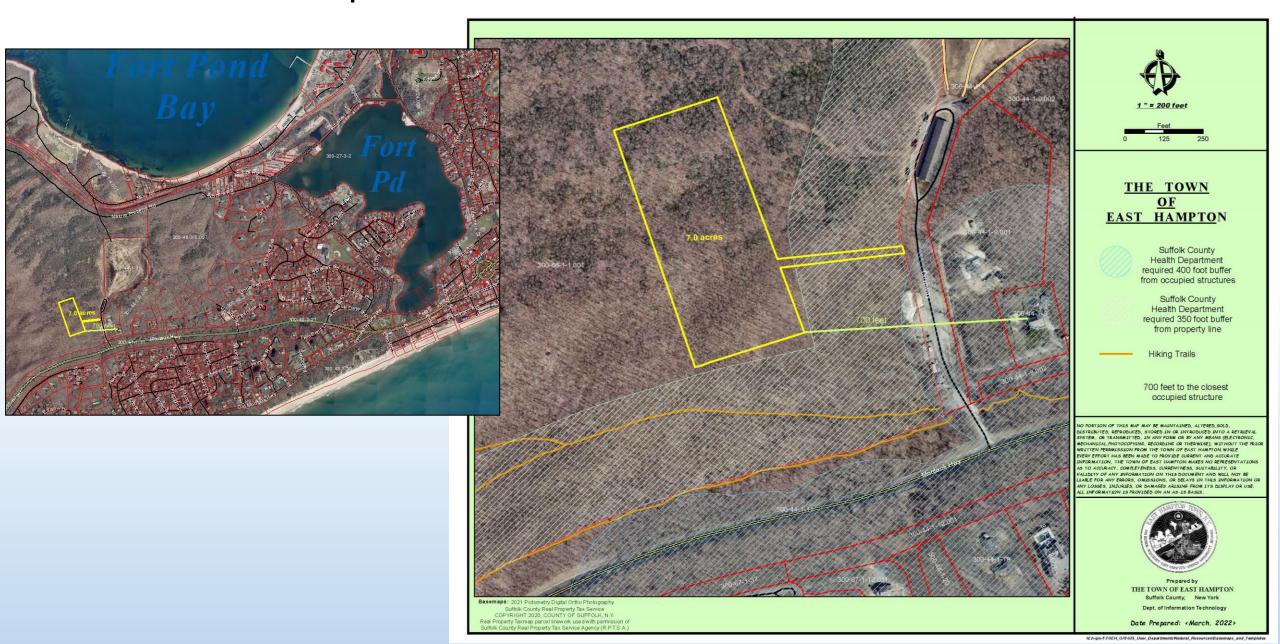
## WWT Siting Concerns and Feasibility

- Consideration of treatment site locations
  - Montauk Manor Expansion
  - TOEH Landfill
  - NYS ROW near West Lake/Montauk Highway
  - Water Re-use @ Montauk Downs Golf Course
  - Montauk Railroad Station Area
- Limitations include;
  - Available area or usable space
  - Presence of underground structures/utilities
  - Depth to groundwater
  - Proximity to residential properties
  - Distance from proposed sewer service area
  - Property ownership
- Existing options exhausted; proposed alternative is land swap with Suffolk County

#### Requirements for Land Swap

- Broad Public Support
- Secure local sponsors in the NYS Assembly and Senate
- Suffolk County Park Trustees Approval
- Home Rule Message SC Executive
- Suffolk County Legislature Approval
- Support requested from
  - Downtown Montauk Wastewater Committee
  - Montauk Citizens Advisory Committee
  - Concerned Citizens of Montauk
  - Montauk Chamber of Commerce
  - Montauk Village Association
  - Montauk Fire Department
  - Boatmen and Captains Association
  - East Hampton Town Trustees
  - Ditch Plain Association

### Preferred Proposed Site West of Landfill



#### Alternative Site

• East of Montauk Landfill



#### Future Public Engagement and Communication

- DTM Wastewater Committee
  - Made up of Montauk business owners, residents, non-profit representatives to advise the Town throughout the process
- Montauk CAC and community group update meetings
- Public outreach to business owners and residents
  - Educate on the need for wastewater improvements, how changes impact Montauk
- Town Board Meetings for development of Map & Plan
  - To be presented by DTM WW committee, H2M Engineers and Town Staff
- Formal Education and Outreach Plan to be determined in next steps

## Questions?